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MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE.

Monday, October 8, 1917.

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Negro Welfare League was held on the above date at 249 Mulberry Street. Those present were Rev. R. D. Brown, Mr. C. H. Brown, Rev. O. M. Bonfield, Miss Virginia Robinson, Mrs. W. J. Green, Rev. A. E. Stubblebine, Rev. Davis Lusk, Mr. Wm. H. Asby, and Miss Pendleton. *Mrs. P. H. Stewart*

The Chairman, Mr. Stubblebine, presided, and in the absence of the regular secretary, Miss Pendleton was again asked to take the minutes.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Rev. R. D. Brown, secretary of the special committee appointed to draft plans for the next three months' work, read the following report of the committee:

The committee appointed at the September meeting of the Executive Committee of the Negro Welfare League to draft plans for work to be undertaken during the next three months recommends the following program.

First. The adoption of a budget for one year.

	(Secretary	\$1200.00
Salaries	(Asst. Secretary	600.00
	(Clerk	480.00
Rent		200.00
Car fares		100.00
Postage		100.00

Telephone and telegraph 50.00
Incidentals 50.00
\$2750.00

To help to secure this money letters of appeal should be sent to charitably disposed people of the city and state and, as far as possible, followed by a personal visit from the Executive Secretary.

Second-

The immediate inauguration of a movement to better the housing condition of the negroes in this community. The first step in this movement should be that of publicity. As large a use as is possible of the daily press to show, both pictorially and verbally, what the present housing condition is and what it is possible to make it.

Third-

The promotion of social improvement, especially among the new-comers. This may be directed along these several lines.
(a) Recreation. The establishment of social centers for amusement, reading and study.
(b) Health. The provision of public meetings where will be given lectures on hygiene by prominent physicians and members of the Board of Health.
(c) Personal contact. The work of the Friendly Visitors. The Big Brother Movement. Lunch-hour talks to factory workers.

Fourth.

A thorough co-operation of the Negro Welfare League with the Associated Charities and the Municipal Employment Bureau.

Respectfully,

Robt. D. Brown

Sec'y of the special committee

Mr. C. M. Brown moved, seconded by Miss Robinson, that the report be adopted as a whole. This was passed.

A letter was read from Mr. A. W. MacDougall, Treasurer, stating that the balance in the treasury is \$604.45. Mr. MacDougall suggested that the rapidly decreasing balance necessitates that the matter of securing contributions be taken up, and as a plan of work has now been adopted in line with Mr. Hamburg's suggestion, he urged that the Executive secretary be asked to begin to secure the necessary financial support. This met with the approval of those present, and Miss Pendleton stated that Mr. Mac Dougall, as treasurer, had already acquainted Mr. Hamburg with the report of the committee.

Having been unable to reach the secretary, Rev. Mr. Brown, who is out of town, Mr. MacDougall thought it best to get in touch with Mr. Hamburg in order to lose no time. Mr. Hamburg has not yet answered the communication.

Mr. Asby stated that he would immediately start to work upon the proposed plan.

The Chairman asked the secretary to read the following letter from Mr. Isaac H. Nutter, a colored lawyer of Atlantic City:

Trenton, N. J., Oct. 5, 1917

The North Jersey Negro Welfare League.

Dear Sir:

~~At a meeting of the Governor and his Cabinet, they decided to establish a Bureau for the Welfare and Employment~~

of the Colored Citizens of the State of New Jersey and particularly to look after the housing, employment and education of the Citizens migrating from the South. Before it is launched upon a working basis, it is the desire of the Governor that we get in touch with all Organizations in the State that are doing a similar work, in order that harmony may exist between the Bureau and the various Associations, and in order that greater results may be achieved by the combined efforts of all. We are desirous that representatives from every Association and all of the citizens and philanthropists who are engaged in that work will meet at the Assembly Rooms, State House, Trenton, on October 12th, at 8 p. m., to discuss and recommend the best way of making this Bureau a success. We are especially anxious that you be present on that occasion and bring such other friends as you feel will be interested in the work.

Yours truly,

Isaac H. Nutter,
Director.

Miss Pendleton stated that in her recent interview with Colonel Bryant, Commissioner of Labor, Colonel Bryant stated that he is in charge of the proposed Welfare work for Negroes, and that he thought the Negro Welfare League related only to Newark, and when he learned that this league intends to cover the state, he expressly disclaimed any thought or intention of starting a rival organization. Upon learning from Colonel Bryant that the State Department of Labor has no intention whatever of superseding or competing with the work that the Negro Welfare League is doing, Mr. MacDougall and Miss Pendleton both assured him that we feel sure the league will continue to co-operate with the Department of Labor, stating further that they thought it unfortunate that the Gov-

ernor has apparently decided to start a separate work for Negroes, but that whatever he finally decides to do, they urged the appointment of a trained social worker instead of anyone whose sole public experience has been in politics.

Miss Pendleton further stated that she had thought up to this time it was wisest to pay very little attention to Mr. Nutter's efforts to start a welfare league, as he is not paid for this work, and the state has appropriated but a small sum to start with.

As Mr. Nutter has directly communicated with the League, however, she moved that Mr. MacDougall and Mr. Ashby be asked to go with the committee to Trenton to observe and see what the plan is likely to amount to. Miss Robinson seconded this motion, which was amended by the Rev. Mr. Bonfield to include Mr. Stubblebine, and passed.

Mr. C. M. Brown thought that the matter should be fought; as it would cripple this work, and was undoubtedly a political measure.

Mrs. Green asked if others should be included in the committee. The general opinion was that anyone might go who wished to do so and would pay his own expenses.

Rev. Bonfield moved, which was duly seconded and passed, that an effort should be put forward to incorporate

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this society as soon as possible.

The feeling of the committee was that this should be done free of charge. It was left to Mr. Ashby to see if a lawyer can be persuaded to take up the matter.

As the time is approaching for a quarterly meeting of the league, Miss Pendleton suggested that a meeting be held on or about the 23th of October, which was approved and she further suggested that since the league is anxious to help get public support for the few colored homes there are here, it would be well to have speakers at this meeting touch upon the two important institutions which need public support; i.e., The Home for the Aged, and The Good Samaritan Orphanage.

The Chairman appointed a committee of three, Miss Pendleton, Miss Robinson and Rev. R. D. Brown, to plan for the meeting, secure speakers, etc.

Mr. Ashby reported that he had communicated with the Department of Labor concerning the payment for Mrs. Richardson's services, and had learned that no one could be put on the salary list without passing a Civil Service Examination. Mr. Spitz had said that Mrs. Richardson would surely be reimbursed for any expenses incurred by her in the course of her work.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Helen B. Pendleton
Sec. pro tem.